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Message Text

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53
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 /076 W
---------- 037642
R 071111Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5588
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD ECON NP IND
SUBJ: INDO-NEPAL TRADE TALKS - ROUND ONE

1. NEPALESE DELEGATION FOR RENOGOTIATION FO THE INDO-
NEPAL TRADE AND TRANSIT AGREEMENT RETURNED TO KATHMANDU ON
JULY 3 AFTER FIRST ROUND OF TALKS HELD IN NEW DELHI.
DELEGATION LEADER D.R. UPADHYAYA CHARACTERIZED THE FIRST
ROUND AS "EXTENSIVE AND USEFUL" IN A PRESS CONFERENCE. IN
PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF, HE WAS NOT WILLING TO GO
INTO DETAIL ON DEVELOPMENTS, BUOIDIAPASSERT THAT MEANINGFUL
PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE. THE MAJOR OBSTACLE STILL APPEARS TO
BE THE ISSUE OF SEPARATE TREATIES FOR TRADE AND TRANSIT.
UPADHYAYA SAID THAT NEPAL HAD NOT YET GIVEN UP THE IDEA
IN SPITE OF ADAMANT INDIAN OPPOSITION. IN A SEPARATE
CONVERSATION, FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY B.P. RIMAL,
WHOSE BAILIWICK INCLUDES INDIA, WAS QUITE POSITIVE. WHILE
CONCEDING THAT THERE WERE STILL AREAS OF DIFFERENCE, HE
SAID THAT THESE DIFFERENCES WERE BEING AIRED FRANKLY AND
FREELY AND DSICUSSED IN A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. RIMAL
STRESSED THAT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE NOGOTIATIONS WAS TOTALLY
DIFFERENCE FROM THE CONTENTIOUS MOOD OF THE 1971 TALKS.
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ASIDE FROM IMPROVED TRANSIT PROCEDURES, ONE OF THE MAIN

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NEPALESE OBJECTIVES AT THIS POINT APPEARS TO BE MORE
CONCESSIONAL INDIAN TREATMENT FOR NEPALESE MANFACTURERS.

2. ROUND TWO IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN KATHMANDU IN MID-
JULY. UPADHYAYA SAID THAT IT WAS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER
INDIA'S DR. ALEXANDER WOULD ACCOMPANY THE INDIAN DELEGATION.
ALEXANDER'S ATTENDANCE WOULD PROBALBY SIGNAL AN
RESOLUTION OF THE SEPARATE TREATIES IMPASSE AND A RAPID
FINANIZATION OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.
MAYTAG

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